

**PROTECTION OF CHILDREN RIDING IN MOTOR
VEHICLES**

2013 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Patrice M. Arent

Senate Sponsor: Aaron Osmond

LONG TITLE

Committee Note:

The Health and Human Services Interim Committee recommended this bill.

General Description:

This bill modifies the Motor Vehicles Code by enacting a restriction on smoking in a motor vehicle when a child is present.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines smoking;
- ▶ prohibits a person from smoking in a motor vehicle if a child who is 15 years of age or younger is a passenger in the vehicle ~~It~~ **except in certain circumstances** ~~It~~ ;
- ▶ provides that violating the smoking prohibition is an infraction and has a maximum fine of \$45;
- ▶ provides that until July 1, 2014, a peace officer may not issue a citation to an individual for a violation of this section but shall issue the individual a warning informing the individual that smoking is prohibited in a motor vehicle if a child who is 15 years of age or younger is a passenger in the vehicle;
- ▶ provides that a court may suspend the fine for a violation if the person has not previously been convicted of smoking in a vehicle when a child is present and proves that the person has enrolled in a smoking cessation program;



28 ▶ provides that enforcement of the smoking prohibition shall be only as a secondary
29 action; and

30 ▶ provides that a violation of the smoking prohibition may not be used as a basis for
31 or evidence of child abuse or neglect.

32 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

33 None

34 **Other Special Clauses:**

35 None

36 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

37 ENACTS:

38 **41-6a-1717**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

40 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

41 Section 1. Section **41-6a-1717** is enacted to read:

42 **41-6a-1717. Smoking in a vehicle prohibited when child is present -- Penalty --**
43 **Enforcement.**

44 (1) As used in this section, "smoking" has the same meaning as defined in Section
45 26-38-2.

46 (2) ~~It~~ [Smoking] (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), smoking ~~is~~ is
47a prohibited in a motor vehicle if a child who is 15 years of age or
47 younger is a passenger in the vehicle.

47a ~~It~~ (b) A person may smoke in a motor vehicle while a child who is 15 years of age or
47b younger is a passenger in the vehicle if the person:

47c (i) is operating a convertible or open-body type motor vehicle; and

47d (ii) the roof on the convertible or open-body type motor vehicle is in the
47e open-air mode. ~~It~~

48 (3) A person who violates this section is guilty of an infraction and is subject to a
49 maximum fine of \$45.

50 (4) Until July 1, 2014, a peace officer may not issue a citation to an individual for a
51 violation of this section but shall issue the individual a warning informing the individual that
52 smoking is prohibited in a motor vehicle if a child who is 15 years of age or younger is a
53 passenger in the vehicle.

54 (5) The court may suspend the fine for a violation of this section if:

55 (a) the person has not previously been convicted of a violation of this section; and

56 (b) the person proves to the court that the person has enrolled in a smoking cessation
57 program.

58 (6) Enforcement of this section by a state or local law enforcement officer shall be only

59 as a secondary action when the vehicle has been detained for a suspected violation by any
60 person in the vehicle of Title 41, Motor Vehicles, other than this section, or for another offense.
61 (7) A violation of this section may not be used as a basis for or evidence of child abuse
62 or neglect.

Legislative Review Note
as of 9-26-12 3:13 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel